

REMARKS

Claims 4-19 and 21-30 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 19 and 21 are amended and claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Reconsideration of the view of the above amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-18 and 29-30 are allowed, and that claims 20-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 19 and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,231,481 to Eouzan et al. (hereinafter "Eouzan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,614 to Cobben et al. (hereinafter "Cobben"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates that claims 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 19 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 20, and claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is in condition for allowance. Claims 21-28 depend from claim 19, and are thus also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

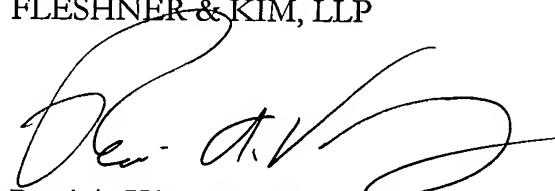
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **René A. Vázquez, Esq.**, at the telephone number listed below.

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Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2005

Docket No. K-0389

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



René A. Vázquez, Esq.
Registration No. 38,647

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DYK/RAV:knv
Date: OCTOBER 26, 2005

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610